Prouder, than rustling in unpald-for silk:
Such gain the cap of him, that makes
him fine,

lauble was anciently spelt *bable ;* so that Dr. Warburton in reality has added but one letter. A *bauble* was part of the insignia of a fool. So, in All's Well That Ends Well, Act IV. Sc. V. the Clown says :

" I would give his wife my *bauble,* sir."

It was a kind of truncheon (says Sir John Hawkins,) with ahead carved on it. To this Belarius may allude, and mean that honourable poverty is more precious than a sinecure *at court,* of which the badge is a truncheon or a wand." So, in Middleton's Game at Chess, 1623 :

"Art, thou so cruel for an honours *bable?*"

As, however, it was once the custom in England for favourites at court to beg the wardship of *infants* who were born to great riches, our author may allude to it on this occasion. Frequent complaints were made that *nothing was done* towards the education of these neglected orphans. STEEVENS.

I have always suspected that the right reading of this passage is what I had not in a former edition the confidence to propose :

" Richer than doing nothing for a *brabe ;*
---"

]3ra7jium is a *badge <rf honour^* or the ensign of an honour, or any thing worn' as a mark of dignity. The word was strange to the editors, as it will be to the reader; they therefore changed it to *labe* ; and I am forced to propose it without the support of any authority. *Brabium* is a word found in Holyoak's Dictionary, who terms it a *reward.* Cooper, in his Thesaurus., defines it to be a *prize,* or *reward for any game.* JOHNSON.

A *babe* and *baby* are synonymous. A *baby* being a puppet or *play-thing* for children. I suppose a *babe* here means a puppet. So, in Spenser's Pastorals, May, 239 :

** But all as a poore pedlar he did wend, "
Bearing a trusse of trifles at his backe, *e
As bells and *bales* and glasses in his
packe." For *babe* Mr. Rowe substituted
bauble.

" Doing nothing" in this passage means, I think, * being *busy* In petty and unimportant employments:' in the same sense as when we say, melius est *otiosum* esse quam nihil agere.

The following lines in Drayton's Owle, 4to. 1604-, may add, however, some support to Rowe's emendation, *balle* or *bauble :* "Which with much sorrow brought into my mind ** Their wretched soules, so ignorantly blinde, " When even the greatest things, in the world unstable, " Clyme but to fall, and *damned for a bable*" MALONE, Mr. Malone's first explanation of the old text will probably be deemed satisfactory; but I may as well remark that there was such